

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1) A device for feeding bees, comprising:
 - a) a rigid heat-absorptive housing, said housing being adapted to fit inside of a first hive body;
 - b) a chamber within said housing, said chamber having a bottom surface with a plurality of holes passing therethrough;
 - c) at least one access port in said housing; and
 - d) a means for mounting said housing on top of a second hive body;wherein said plurality of holes in the bottom of said chamber are large enough to allow a bee to access the viscous syrup through said plurality of holes, but small enough to prevent the viscous syrup from dripping therethrough.
- 2) The device of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a continuous side wall; and
said mounting means comprises a flange extending outwardly from said side wall, wherein said flange is positioned on top of an outer wall of said second hive body, and beneath an outer wall of said first hive body.
- 3) The device of claim 2, wherein said housing further comprises a top surface having a handle thereon.
- 4) The device of claim 3, further comprising an insulating shell surrounding the side wall and the top of the housing.
- 5) The device of claim 4, wherein the insulating shell is made of foamed plastic.
- 6) The device of claim 3, further comprising a layer of polystyrene foam surrounding the side wall and the top of the housing.
- 7) The device of claim 1, wherein the said plurality of holes in the bottom of said chamber have a gauge size between 26 and 32.
- 8) The device of claim 1, wherein the said plurality of holes in the bottom of said chamber are gauge 29.
- 9) A device for culturing bees, comprising:

a) a first hive body adapted to contain bees, said first hive body having an outer wall and an open top;

b) a second hive body mounted on top of the first hive body, said second hive body having an outer wall;

c) a bee feeder mounted over the open top of the first hive body, said bee feeder comprising:

1) a rigid heat-absorptive housing positioned inside the second hive body;

2) a chamber within said housing, said chamber having a bottom surface with a plurality of holes passing therethrough;

3) an access port in said housing, said port allowing a viscous syrup to be poured into said chamber, where said port may be reversibly sealed; and

4) a means for mounting said housing on top of the top surface of said first hive body;

wherein said plurality of holes in the bottom of said chamber are large enough to allow the bees within the hive to access the viscous syrup through said plurality of holes, but small enough to prevent the viscous syrup from dripping into the hive.

10) The device of claim 9, wherein said housing comprises a continuous side wall, and said mounting means comprises a flange extending outwardly from said side wall, said flange being positioned between the outer wall of the first hive body and the outer wall of the second hive body.

11) The device of claim 10, wherein said housing further comprises a top surface having a handle thereon.

12) The device of claim 11, further comprising an insulating shell between the housing and the second hive body.

13) The device of claim 12, wherein the insulating shell is made of foamed plastic.

14) The device of claim 11, further comprising a layer of polystyrene foam surrounding the side wall and the top of the housing.

15) The device of claim 9, wherein the said plurality of holes in the bottom of said chamber have a gauge size between 26 and 32.

16) The device of claim 9, wherein the said plurality of holes in the bottom of said chamber are gauge 29.

17) A method of bee husbandry using a bee feeder assembly, said bee feeder assembly comprising:

- a feeder hive body having an outer wall and an open bottom;
- a rigid heat-absorptive housing positioned inside of the feeder hive body;
- a chamber within said housing, said chamber having a bottom surface with a plurality of holes therethrough;
- at least one access port in said housing; and
- a mounting flange attached to the exterior of said housing;

wherein said method comprises the steps of:

a) maintaining a colony of bees in an artificial hive, said artificial hive comprising:

- a first hive body adapted to contain a queen bee and a plurality of worker bees, said first hive body having an outer wall and an open top;

- a second hive body mounted on top of the first hive body, said second hive body having an outer wall; and

- a means for allowing the worker bees, but not the queen bee, to enter the second hive body;

b) allowing the worker bees to store honey in the second hive body;

c) removing the second hive body from the artificial hive when the average temperature falls below a predetermined level;

d) positioning the bee feeder assembly on said first hive body by positioning the outer wall of the feeder hive body on top of the outer wall of the first hive body, with the mounting flange being positioned therebetween;

e) filling the interior of the chamber with a syrup which is palatable to bees and allowing the bees to feed on said syrup through said plurality of holes;
and

f) replacing the bee feeder assembly with the second hive body when the average temperature rises above said predetermined level.